Lathi charge in Suchindram Tekkutheru.

233. *MR. K. NARAYANA PERUMAL NADAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was a lathi charge by the Police on the crowd of people assembled in Suchindram Tekkutheru at about 7 P. M. on Tuesday the 11th Markali 1115, when Miss D. K. Pattammal was singing in front of "Parembalam" in Tekkumon;

(*b*) the number of people that died as a result of the lathi charge;

(*c*) the number of people wounded;

(*d*) the number of Police Inspectors present in the crowd; and

(*e*) the number of A. S. Ps present in the crowd?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: (*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) These do not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

(*d*) 6.

(*e*) 1.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: With reference to answer to part (*d*) may I know why 6 Police Inspectors were present in Suchindram Tekkutheru?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: Suchindram temple is one of the most important temples in the State. The car festival there attracts very large crowd and as such a sufficient number of Police men is usually deputed.

Extension of the Transport Service to Kottayam.

234. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the points discussed and the decisions arrived at, during the conference of the private bus-owners and the Transport Superintendent at Kottayam regarding the extension of the transport service to that station?

MR. K. SANKARAN: The Conference was an informal one arranged with a view to ascertain whether the present owners would be willing to hand over their vehicles to the Transport Department when the new route is taken up by that Department. The owners unanimously agreed to sell their vehicles at a price to be decided by the Transport Superintendent.

The owners were informed by the Superintendent of Transport of the proposed extension of the Transport Service to Kottayam after the expiry of the two years' period specified in the Press note, dated the 13th February 1938. One owner raised the question of good will, but the Superintendent refused to recognise it as a saleable asset. Another owner requested that the proposed extension might be deferred until the end of 1115, as his financial position was difficult.

A number of operators pointed out that the past three months had been a 'lean time' from a passenger traffic view-point and requested that the purchase of buses might be deferred until February 1940, and the Superintendent agreed to this arrangement."

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